

Message Text

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SUBJ: SUMMARY OF FEB 22-23, 1978 MEETING OF BSF BOARD
OF GOVERNORS

1. SUMMARY: THE GOVERNORS BROKE NEW GROUND AT THIS MEETING BY AGREEING TO FUND GRANTS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES. THEY ESTABLISHED A NEW STRATEGY COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITIES FOR FUNDING GRANTS IN OTHER NEW AREAS. 107 NEW PROJECTS WERE APPROVED FOR FUNDING BEGINNING IN 1978 AND A PATENT POLICY WAS APPROVED.

2. IN WELCOMING REMARKS AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE MEETING, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YIGAL YADIN NOTED THAT TWO NEW U.S.-ISRAEL FOUNDATIONS HAD RECENTLY BEEN FORMED AND SUGGESTED THAT ANOTHER BE CONSIDERED TO SUPPORT RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SCIENCES.

3. IN ACCEPTING THE FY 1977 AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE BSF (AGENDA ITEM 4) THE GOVERNORS RESOLVED TO REQUEST THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO INCREASE THE ENDOWMENT OF THE FOUNDATION AND ALSO RESOLVED TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES FOR DOING SO.

4. UNDER AGENDA ITEM 5, THE 1977 PROGRESS REPORT WAS REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED. IN CONSIDERATION OF ITEM 6, DISTRIBUTION OF FOUND-
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ACTION FUNDS, THE BOARD APPROVED AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN PROPOSED BY PROF. VAADIA FOR THE 1978-81 PROJECTED CASH FLOW.

5. UNDER ITEM 7, THE BOARD APPROVED FUNDING FOR 107 NEW PROJECTS AT A FIRST YEAR COST OF IL21 MILLION.

6. THE GOVERNORS APPROVED, UNDER AGENDA ITEM 8, A 1978 ADMINIS-

TRATIVE BUDGET OF IL2,925,000, AFTER ADDING TO THAT SUM A 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE SALARIES AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF THE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR, IN CONNECTION WITH PARAGRAPH 10 BELOW. THEY ALSO APPROVED AN ANNUAL BUDGET FOR SUPPORT OF ALL GRANTS IN 1978 OF IL58 MILLION.

7. UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9, FUTURE POLICY FOR ALLOCATION OF RESEARCH GRANTS, THE GOVERNORS AGREED TO FUND GRANTS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES BEGINNING IN 1979. IN A REPORT PREPARED JUST PRIOR TO THE MEETING, AND ACCEPTED WITH MODIFICATIONS BY THE GOVERNORS, IT WAS AGREED (A) TO USE BOTH STANDARD AND RAW SCORES IN EVALUATING FUTURE GRANT PROPOSALS, AND (B) TO ALLOCATE FUNDS AVAILABLE IN 1979 AS FOLLOWS: 40 PERCENT FOR HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES, 25 PERCENT FOR CHEMISTRY, MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS, 10 PERCENT FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND 25 PERCENT FOR "OTHER". THE BOARD ALSO AGREED TO ESTABLISH A STRATEGY PLANNING COMMITTEE TO IDENTIFY NEW AREAS OF RESEARCH WHICH MIGHT BE SUPPORTED AND NEW MODES OF COOPERATION. THE COMMITTEE WILL CONSIST OF DRS. EDMINSTER AND AVERCH (U.S.) AND DRS. TAL AND NEUFELD (ISRAEL).

8. THE PROPOSED PATENT POLICY, ITEM 10, WAS AGREED UPON, WITH TWO MINOR EDITORIAL CHANGES.

9. UNDER AGENDA ITEM 11, PROF. DVORETZKY WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND MRS. MINK WAS ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN. MRS. MINK AND DR. EDMINSTER WERE ELECTED AS U.S. MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITTEE AND DR. AVERCH WAS NAMED AS THE U.S. MEMBER OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE. ISRAELI MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE DRS. DVORETZKY AND NEUFELD WHILE MR. HALPERIN WILL REPRESENT ISRAEL ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

10. UNDER OTHER BUSINESS, THE GOVERNORS SAT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER PROBLEMS WHICH HAD ARISEN WITHIN THE FOUNDATION IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR TO THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION, IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF BSF SHALL PREPARE AND SUBMIT TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PERSONNEL REGULATIONS APPROPRIATE FOR THE BSF. A SECOND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZED THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD TO CARRY OUT AN ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEMS WITHIN THE FOUNDATION AND MAKE A REPORT OF THE RESULTS TO THE BOARD WITHIN EIGHT WEEKS. A THIRD RESOLUTION REQUIRED THAT BSF PROFESSIONAL STAFF REFRAIN FROM ANY OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT WHICH MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST. THE GOVERNORS ALSO AGREED TO DETACH TEMPORARILY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FROM HIS USUAL DUTIES IN ORDER TO PERFORM THE SPECIAL TASK OF ASSESSING GRANT EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND METHODS USED IN ISRAEL AND ELSEWHERE AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNORS BASED ON HIS FINDINGS. FOR

THIS PURPOSE THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR WILL REPORT TO A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD HEADED BY DR. TAL, AND WILL BE PROVIDED AN OFFICE IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

11. MR. MOSHE CASPI WAS RETAINED AS BSF AUDITOR AND MR. ZEEV AFKIK WAS APPROVED AS THE NEW LEGAL COUNSEL, ASSISTED BY MS. ILANA LEVINE.

12. A FULLER REPORT WILL BE MADE TO THE GOVERNORS BY THE DIRECTOR WHEN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ARE TRANSCRIBED.
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